



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Wisconsin*

517 East Wisconsin Avenue

414 / 297-1700

Milwaukee, WI 53202

TTY 414 / 297-1088

January 5, 2006

NEWS SUMMARY:

On Thursday, January 5, 2006, Leslie John Hamilton, Jr., 54, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin and Las Vegas, Nevada was sentenced in federal court in Milwaukee by United States District Court Judge J.P. Stadtmueller to 25 years in prison for orchestrating an extensive coin investment fraud scheme.

Hamilton, who was convicted of 28 counts of mail and wire fraud by a federal jury in April 2005, operated the scheme by falsely offering investors large returns on investments in rare, collectible coins. In reality there were few, if any, coins, and Hamilton and his long time girlfriend, Angelina Roebuck, used the investors' money to sustain a lavish Las Vegas lifestyle and fund regular trips to casinos.

Roebuck, who assisted Hamilton in the later stages of the scheme, pled guilty to a single count of mail fraud and was sentenced in July of 2005 to six months in prison and 6 months home confinement.

Over 400 persons, the majority of whom were residents of Wisconsin, were tricked by Hamilton's false promises of fabulous returns. The investors collectively lost over 14 million dollars according to the government's restitution figures. Several of the defrauded investors spoke at Hamilton's sentencing, telling the judge that they had suffered both financially and emotionally as the result of their misplaced trust in Hamilton.

At the sentencing hearing, Assistant United States Attorney Carol L. Kraft urged the court to impose a lengthy sentence, citing both the serious nature of the offense and the need to protect others from similar conduct by Hamilton. In imposing the 25 year sentence, Judge Stadtmueller noted that Hamilton's scheme was one of the most pernicious that he had seen in his many years on the bench.

The case was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions, Division of Securities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Carol L. Kraft and Mel S. Johnson.

#

For more information contact:

Assistant United States Attorney Carol Kraft

First Assistant United States Attorney William Lipscomb

414-297-1700